

## **Invitation to Licensed Mental Health Professionals:** *How You Can Make A Difference!*

### **Why are we writing to you?**

Second Substitute House Bill 1088, Section 11 directs the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to make two changes to the outpatient mental health benefit provided to children under age 19. *Keep reading below to find out how you may participate in this exciting opportunity to expand mental health services to children in the State of Washington.*

### **What's changing with children's mental health services?**

*Beginning July 1, 2008:*

- ✓ The number of outpatient mental health treatment hours, including evaluation, that may be paid in a calendar year for individuals under age 19 is being increased from 12 to 20, and
- ✓ The type of provider who may bill for these services, previously limited to psychiatrists, is being expanded to include the following:
  - Licensed Psychologists
  - Licensed Psychiatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
  - Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers
  - Licensed Advanced Social Workers
  - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
  - Licensed Mental Health Counselors

### **Who's qualified to provide these mental health services?**

*To be eligible to provide and bill for these services, a mental health professional must:*

- ✓ Be licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) under the appropriate licensure, be in good standing with DOH, and be without DOH restriction, and
- ✓ Have a minimum of two years experience in the diagnosis and treatment of children, youth and their families. At least one of these years must be under the supervision of a mental health professional trained in child and family mental health. A licensed psychiatrist may provide services and bill DSHS without meeting this minimum experience requirement.

### **What should you do to become a Medicaid provider?**

*If you are qualified and want to be able to provide and bill DSHS for these services, you must:*

- ✓ Obtain a National Provider Identifier from the federal government
- ✓ Complete a Core Provider Agreement with DSHS
- ✓ Write and sign a letter attesting to your experience in providing mental health services to children, youth and their families as described above (the letter does not need to be notarized)
- ✓ Send all of these to:

Provider Enrollment  
Division of Eligibility & Services Administration  
PO Box 45562  
626 – 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Olympia, WA 98504-5562

### **Resources:**

<http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/providerenroll>

1-800-562-3022 Option 2, then option 5

Billing Instructions and Payment Rates will be provided prior to July 1, 2008